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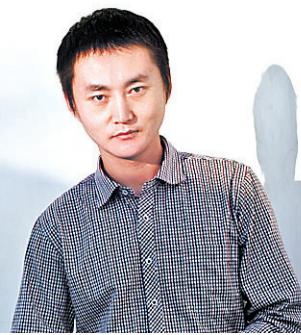
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Unique drinks
and designs
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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



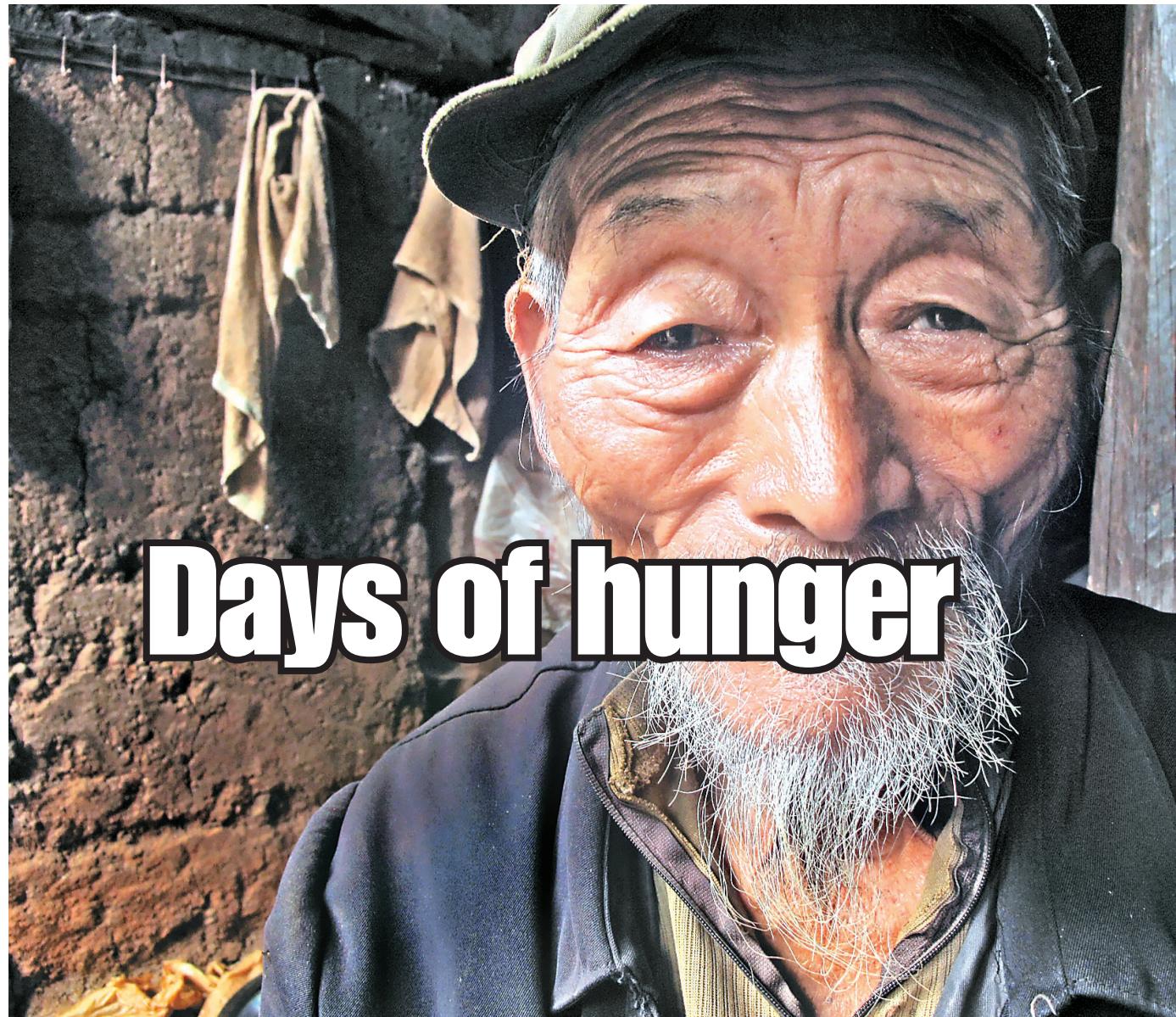
Page 6 Exhibition in tempera

Tempera is an unusual choice for today's artists, but Xia Yu aims to show the potential of this less common paint.

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Comparing national shame

Who is worse? America's rude airline attendants or China's youths who deface the world's treasures?



Days of hunger

IMF slashes
forecast for
growth

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Jobs for
grads scarcer
than ever

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The Folk Memory Project is taking Chinese youth back to their rural roots to record stories from the Great Chinese Famine that lasted from 1959 to 1961.

Many of the young recorders grew up dreaming of life in the big city. Hearing their neighbors' stories of hardship has helped them to forge a new emotional link to their hometowns.

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IMF lowers growth forecast for China after new talks

By Liu Xiaochan

After a fourth round of talks in Beijing, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has decreased its growth forecast for the Chinese economy to 7.75 percent.

General government debt, including local government financing, is estimated to have increased to nearly 50 percent of the national GDP. Related fiscal deficits account for 10 percent of the GDP in 2012.

The delegation, which toured China from May 15 to 29, said the expansion of credit and global economic growth may help the country to rebound. At the end of this

year, inflation will be around 3 percent and external current account surplus will remain largely unchanged at 2.5 percent of the GDP.

"Though the near-term outlook is relatively optimistic, China's economy is facing a great challenge. The rapid growth of total social financing has people worried about investment quality and its effect on liquidity," deputy director of the Department of Asian and Pacific Markus Rodlauer said.

"There is an increasingly large proportion of trade that is carried out outside the supervised financial system.

And economic growth has become dependent on the continued expansion of investment, mainly in the real estate sector, and local government investment, whose financial situation has changed."

The government said it will implement a series of reforms in 2013 to solve these problems.

The IMF said these reforms will run into three main problems: the nation still lacks a management structure for local government and economic institutions such as banks and state-owned enterprises, financial control is not fully open to market forces and income

levels are not high enough to support consumption habits.

The success or failure of the reforms may indicate the ability of China's new leaders to succeed in other plans.

The IMF delegation said the further liberalization of the financial market will not improve efficiency if the government does not strengthen its regulatory mechanisms and enforce accountability.

It also advised further tax reforms, replacing the high co-pay requirements for social insurance with other forms of taxation and reducing the burden on low-income earners.

The government has pro-

posed a number of structural reforms including adjustments to its pricing of energy, land and water.

IMF said it would be helpful to promote economic growth and increase residential income, as well as introduce competition to departments that are considered strategically important.

The IMF delegation was led by Rodlauer. First deputy CEO David Lipton joined in the last policy discussion.

The delegation met with senior officials from the People's Bank of China, representatives from the private sectors and academicians.

Embassy celebrates 'Danish Day'

By Zhao Hongyi

On May 25, 3,000 children and 800 adults visited the Danish Embassy in Beijing for the third annual Open Denmark Day.

Friis Arne Petersen, Danish ambassador to China, greeted the children and said it was an honor to have so many young visitors.

"In China, Denmark is known as the kingdom of fairy tales, and I hope to show that side of Denmark," Petersen said.

The embassy activities, based on the theme of "Fairytales for the Future: Fairyland for Health, Creativeness and Experience," included traditional Nordic cuisines, toys and garments, as well as an exhibition of Danish jewelry and crafts, film, photography and furniture.

It also provided talks about travel and education opportunities in Denmark.

More interestingly enough, the embassy opened the ambassador's home to visitors, allowing the children a chance to see what ambassadors do all day.

The event included a raffle drawing with prizes provided by Danish companies operating in China.

In the afternoon, Professor Gu Binglin, former president of Tsinghua University and an Aarhus University alumnus, spoke about his experiences of studying abroad



Photos by Mark Schiefelbein / Royal Danish Embassy

in Denmark.

Twenty Danish companies and organizations active in the China market attended to show off their best products and services.

Participating companies included Copenhagen Fur, Arla, Flexa, LEGO, Erfurt, House of Amber, LINDBERG, Post Danmark, TICKET OUTDOOR, SAS, Danish Center, Fjerhuset, Krenkerup, Carlsberg,

Rosendahl, Bang and Olufsen and Kjeldsen, the Scandinavian Tourist Board, Sino-Danish Network and the Danish State Administration for Organic Food.

Carlsberg provided free beer at the event.

Danish Day was co-sponsored by the Nordic Travel Bureau, Sino-Danish Network and the Danish State Administration for Organic Food.

Japanese embassy continues donation drive

By Liu Xiaochan

The Japanese Embassy continued its donation campaign yesterday with more than 1 million yuan of funding for China's regions in need.

Its most recent donations include \$90,694 (556,000 yuan) for new facilities at Beishe Primary School in Wuxiang County, Shanxi Province, \$111,851 (685,000 yuan) for a new 2,800-square-meter enclosure for Crested Ibises being reintroduced to the wild in Luoshan County, Henan Province, and a new health center for Jalaid Banner, Hinggan League of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Past recipients of funds include counties such as Malipo and Jinping in Yunnan Province.

Further donations are planned for Shanxi Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region on June 4.

This voluntary financial support project is intended to help local projects across the country, as well as local residents' health and education.



Photo provided by Japanese Embassy

'80s generation records the great famine

By Bao Chengrong

It's hard for the '80s generation to understand the true scope of the Great Chinese Famine from textbooks alone.

The Folk Memory Project hopes to fill the gap.

Launched in 2010, the project encourages young people to visit the countryside to talk with elders who survived the nation's devastating famine that spanned 1959 to 1961.

"The '80s generation has become the dominant force in society. Our goal is to promote their individual development and educate them about social responsibility," said Wu Wenguang, the project's founder and a pioneer of Chinese indie documentaries.

During the last three years, participants created 16 documentaries, three dramas and hundreds of oral records. In addition to collecting history, they also record current rural problems and attempted to help villagers.

In 2010, 22 volunteers joined the project. Wu gave no specific requirements about how the documentaries should be shot, except for asking participants to choose a village with which they had a personal connection.

"It's very important, because the trip should be a root-searching process," Wu said.

Zou Xueping, 28, one of the pioneers, has greatly deepened her relationship with the Village of Zoujia, her hometown. The three years of shooting brought her a new appreciation for the village's history.

"In the past, I didn't feel I had any connection with the village. My only goal was to get out as fast as possible," Zou said.

When Zou shot *The Starving Village*, she found her connection.

Zou listened to 15 elderly residents talk about how their village survived during the famine. It was the first time she appreciated how severe it was. Some recalled suffering constipation after eating sweet potato vines. Song Qiuying, an 85-year-old woman, told Zou she watched her eldest son die.

"She was calm when telling the story, but I could still feel her inner pain," Zou said.

"The way villagers tell these painful experiences is unlike how intellectuals describe them. Their tones are dif-



Qi Binghong, an 80-year old villager in Yunnan Province

Wu Wenguang (left), the project's founder



Zou Xueping (left)

ferent. Their focus is different. Most of the time, villagers have a vacant look when talking about their suffering," Wu said.

In 2011, Zou returned to record more stories, but the elders would not give her permission to make them public, saying "it is an ill bird that fouls its own nest."

Her parents also opposed allowing her to pursue the project as a full-time job.

The opposition made Zou reflect on village life and reflect on what she really wanted. Her second work, *The Satiated Village*, showed the spiritual starvation of the villagers.

The project also changed the life of Luo Bing, another pioneer.

Luo, a 27-year-old graduate of the China Academy of Art,

would have missed the chance to observe Luojiaiwu, his hometown in Hunan Province, if he hadn't met Ren Dingqi.

Ren, a 78-year-old migrant, was his first interviewee and also the person who guided him to find other interviewees.

Before having a face-to-face interview, the only information Luo knew about his neighbor was that he was literate and skilled with brush writing.

The interview went smoothly the first time. Ren talked about his stories for an hour. But the second time, he refused to talk to Luo. Ren said he used to talk freely in 1957, but was labeled as a

rightist. He feared that this time he might be trapped the same way.

"Nobody had ever come to him to listen to his stories before. My unexpected visit was unusual, so he didn't trust me," Luo said.

After following Ren for a summer, Luo learned about his past. Luo was shocked to

learn Ren had the same story as his grandfather: both were the children of feudal landlords who were forced out during the country's land reforms.

"He almost told everything to me. But when talking about the land reform of 1950, he could hardly say a word. I asked him three times, but nothing he said was complete," Luo said.

Luo later learned the story from Ren's memoirs. Ren's father was shot in an unjust case and his home was sealed off during the land reform. He was turned away by his aunt and left to the streets.

What made Luo even

sadder was when he found how Ren was still suffering. Although Ren said life is better today, Luo could tell the past had left its mark. Ren was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease last year, and the 25-minute bus trip to the town's hospital for treatment would have been fatal in his condition.

"When I realized that I could do nothing to help him, I felt really sad," Luo said.

Similarly difficult stories have caused many to leave the project. Only six of the first participants are still with it today.

But Wu still sees hope.

"All of them have grown," Wu said.

Apart from recording history, the pioneers are keeping an eye on current problems to better their hometowns.

Zou Xueping organized local children to join the project and raised money to build tombstones for those who died in the famine. She also organized villagers to establish a garbage disposal plant.

Wang Hai'an established a fund to help the elders with no family meet their basic needs, and Zhang Mengqi built one of the village's first libraries.

"The biggest change for me is I used to expect to find a job in any city. I never planned to return to Luojiaiwu. Now, I want to go back and do as much as I can," Luo Bing said.



Luo Bing (left) records a village discussion.

Photos provided by Wu Wenguang

New graduates face toughest job market yet

By Zhao Hongyi

China's huge population and massive labor pool make job hunting a perennial nightmare.

And this year it's even worse.

Zhang Hang, 23, will graduate from Beijing University of Science and Technology this autumn with a degree in new material science. While he expected his academic background would be enough to find a job, the search has been a nightmare.

After dozens of tests, interviews and visits to employment websites, his best offer has been a position at an importer and exporter that pays less than 2,500 yuan per month.

He will have no choice but to move in with his parents.

Zhang said he feels embarrassed and does not want to talk with his friends about the new job.

The fact is that China has more university graduates than it needs, enabling employers to offer abysmal salaries to educated workers.

There are 6.3 million university graduates looking for jobs this year and one fourth have not found a job, said Yuan Guiren, minister of education.

The manufacturing industry, however, is facing a serious labor shortage. But most of these openings are for skilled technicians – not fresh graduates.

University graduates have been struggling to find work for the last two decades. The problem began with a rapid expansion of the university system in the 1990s.

Ten years ago, the central government decided to raise enrollment requirements at universities to meet the increasing skill requirements



Chinese job seekers visit a job fair in Wuhan, Hubei Province.

CFP Photo

of Chinese manufacturing, said Zeng Xiangquan, president of the Institute of Labor and Human Resources at Renmin University.

Policymakers expected the move to generate incredible economic gains.

While the number of students attending university has exploded since 1998, entry level salaries have imploded. Most working in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou can barely earn enough to survive.

"These university graduates are marginalized in our society," *China Daily* said in an editorial. "They hate the bureaucracy most."

Foreign companies have been little help in absorbing these graduates.

"Companies found they had

to make heavy investments in training these graduates before they could reach a skill level comparable to their colleagues in other countries," the American Chamber of Commerce said in its report this month.

"Though we have recruited many university graduates, we still prefer to use those with work and social experience – especially in the diverse environment of a transnational company."

"In a company like ours, focused on technology and marketing, we prefer to use experienced workers," said Daniel Redflohull, senior manager of Ford Asia Pacific and Africa.

"Chinese university students are never trained in collaboration or creative exercise," said Gerard A. Postiglione, a researcher of Chinese education at Hong Kong University.

"They are not trained to take risks."

China's education system is modeled on that of the former Soviet Union.

"Teachers stand on the podium and speak, and students sit in the class and listen," said Zeng Xiangquan at Renmin University. "We focus on theory rather than technique, skill or action."

Chinese universities churn out an amazing amount of unqualified graduates with a limited understanding of concepts like heavy industry and planned economy.

Educators began a long-term reform last July, promising to provide students with more training in practical skills

and technology.

"This reform road map acknowledges the problems in China's education system," Postiglione said.

Chongqing has established a fund to support university graduates who start their own business with tax rebates.

The central government is also encouraging graduates to take government jobs in the country's western interior.

"As our economy develops, more jobs suitable to university graduates will appear," said Zhang Chewei, vice president of the Population and Labor Force Institute at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Even if Zhang is correct, his words will not help the quarter of the university graduates who will not find a job this year.

Comment:

Start your own business!

Students should start their own business. They can rent a small area of land on the west side to sell breakfast in the morning or design their own products. Don't rely on others to give you a job!

– Fan Haitao, career consultant

Serve your boss

Office jobs are not easy. You must be flexible for you bosses and colleagues. Know when and what attitude you should use for dealing with who. Know how to deal with your clients to win contracts. You can earn much money in a short period of time, but in the end you are only making your boss look better.

– Yang Jinwen, technician, EDF Beijing

Best jobs are under your feet

The best jobs out there are occupied by the people who came before you. You will need a strong background to win them. This means strong

academic credentials and good connections. It's smarter to start your own business or enter at the ground level as an elementary school teacher, store clerk or technician.

– Xie Tianyu, HR consultant

Recognize who you are

University graduates tend to have a very high opinion of themselves even though they cannot manage most basic tasks. They want an easy desk job in the system, but aren't willing to put in the work to get there. They see themselves not as workers, but as temporarily embarrassed upper-class professionals.

– heart-breaking lotus seed, Reference News

Once again!

Our education system continues to deteriorate. We should rebuild our education industry from the base to focus on practical technology instead of

abstract theory.

I graduated from a famous university in Beijing. I have worked for five years now, my pay is still less than 4,000 yuan.

– oxlsign, netizen, yeeyan.org.

Job placement a lie

At least three-fourths of the graduates I know have not found a job. They always lie in front of foreign media.

My class has the highest recruitment in our university, and only half of the students have found jobs. Only four students among the 122 in our class have found a job related to their major.

– Evelyn Chow, netizen, yeeyan.org.

Head west!

In the western interior, we have many job openings and no qualified candidates to fill them.

– Oelnino, netizen, yeeyan.org.

'Dishonest Americans' and Chinese graffiti



Ding Jinhao defaced an artifact in Luxor, Egypt.

VS



United Airlines was accused of bullying a Chinese passenger.

'Ding Jinhao was here'

A teenage Chinese student recently left his name on an ancient artifact in Luxor, Egypt, inciting condemnation.

A Sina Weibo post showed a picture of the inscription: "Ding Jinhao was here."

"We visited the Pyramid this month and found this doodle or graffiti in Chinese, very eye-catching," the message read. "We wanted to wash out the message but the Egyptian guards told us it was not allowed to be washed."

The message provoked anger among Chinese netizens. People searched for the name Ding Jinhao, and shortly after discovered he was a 15-year-old middle school student in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province.

Ding toured Egypt with his parents earlier this year. He wrote the message on the artifact when his tour guide was not looking.

Leaving messages is somewhat common among tourists, who take a page out of ancient tradition. In the past, poets and scholars would often scribble on mountainsides and stones.

But soon after Ding was discovered, his parents apologized to the public, saying their son cried through the night and was truly sorry for what he has done.

"We hope netizens give space to our little son," the parents said. "He has realized the mistake he made and won't do such a stupid

thing again."

The mother said it was her fault she failed to keep her child from doing that.

'Dishonest Americans'

People's Daily published a series last March called "Dishonest Americans," intending to show how Americans are sometimes dishonest and unkind in their home country.

There were six stories documenting Chinese citizens being cheated and bullied in the US.

In the final story, a man surnamed Liu was delayed at an airport near last Christmas. As his United Airlines flight was getting ready to board, he was told the flight was overbooked and that he had been arranged to take the next day's flight with a \$1,000 refund.

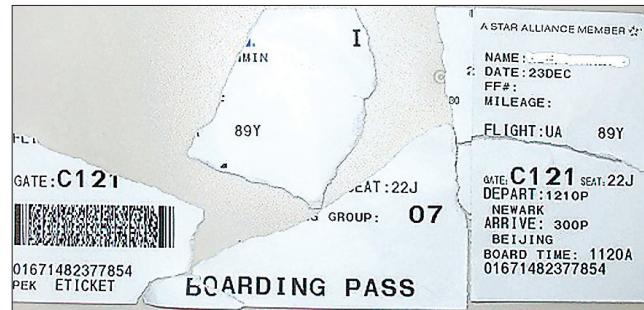
Liu was angry and insisted on going to China the day. Eventually, a woman named Tanya Cidade deleted Liu's name from the boarding list and tore his boarding pass.

"I'll call the police to arrest you if you keep on appealing and shouting," Cidade warned.

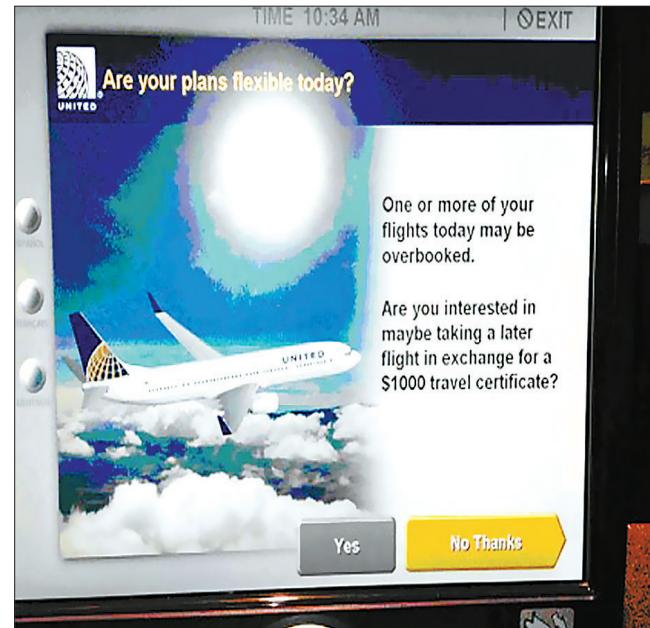
It was Liu who called the police to complain, but it didn't work.

He wrote a letter to United Airlines to complain, but the company replied that it was Liu's fault and his behavior was out of line.

People's Daily reporters in the US discovered that United Airlines routinely



The air ticket torn by a UA attendant



Liu was deleted from his flight's passenger list. CFP Photos

protects its own employees during disputes.

"We Chinese should not be threatened by the word 'call police' and refuse to take the flight in the future," the article stated.

What's the point?

People's Daily stressed that it did not intend to cast a negative image of all Americans, but to remind the Chi-

By Zhao Hongyi

Two particular stories have been roundly lambasted in Chinese media recently, but for different reasons.

In one, a naive tourist defaced an ancient artifact abroad.

In the other, a flagship newspaper of the Communist Party ran a bizarre editorial condemning "Dishonest Americans."

Which got the worst of the public's ire?

no race discrimination?"

This netizen didn't seem to understand that there were no explicit examples of discrimination in these cases.

"These stories make us realize what kind of country the US is," said "Chinese Big Brother." "There exist people who are honest and polite in the US, and there exist criminals and disgraces in the US as well."

Some people joked the *People's Daily* is "supervising in a different place."

"We don't know whether they will open a column named "Supervising in a different place" or 'The Moral and Skilled Pakistanis' in the future."

"Supervising in a different place" is a practice of monitoring corrupt officials in China. Pakistan is where Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visited earlier this month. Li called Pakistanis "real friends."

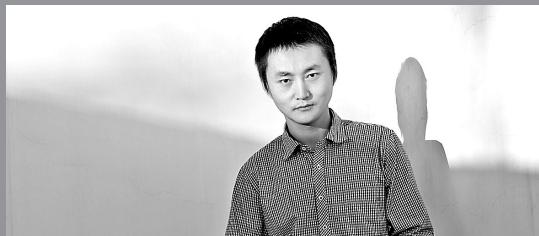
But most Chinese are rational in judging the behaviors of Chinese and Americans.

"It's understandable for the *People's Daily* to publicize their column," said Yu Shanshan, editor-in-chief of *Beijing Today*.

"Did the stories of 'Dishonest Americans' really find the roots of the problems? What's the real point we should focus on?" she asked.

Many Chinese believe that it's better to compromise with each other to build up a "harmonious society" as the former Chinese president Hu Jintao has said.

The road not taken: Xia Yu's tempera paintings



Xia Yu

By Celine Lin

Easygoing and low-profile, 31-year-old Xia Yu's most recent art show is currently on display at Line Gallery in 798 Art Zone.

Forgotten Memories launched earlier this month, displaying 44 tempera paintings, an ancient material first used in the 15th century.

Xia graduated from the oil department of the Central Academy of Arts in 2004. Seven years passed before he had his first show, also at Line, called *Awkward-works of Xia Yu*.

"Trying to accumulate enough life experience, I actually waited for the right moment to make a right decision," Xia said about his first show. "Almost every young individual goes through a period of searching for his real desire, and feels confused about the future."

Part of his concern may be the use of tempera, which is uncommon. He said he's deeply attracted by its hazy effects when applied to wood surfaces, with the material expressing a sense of melancholy and dreamlike beauty.

"Tempera is fast-drying and glossy, which is the reason I chose it as the material," he said.

The form fits the function: audiences will notice subtleties, perhaps skull shapes, or hands turning the pages to a book, or tearing a piece of paper.

"I drew a lot of portraits during my undergraduate studies," Xia said. "The most basic training was to observe the models' appearance and paint a portrait."

But he wanted to go deeper – to the emotions.

Because of the characteristics of tempera, Xia's paintings are like old, nostalgic photos. The figures in his works are devoid of facial expressions, and many have their eyes closed. Xia leaves interpretations up to the viewers.

As for the skulls and portraits of the dead – he does those "just for fun."

But the hands have meaning. "My intention is quite clear," he said. "I think people nowadays rarely write on paper, which I think is important."

"The painting that most expresses my viewpoint on this is *Hand No. 18*, in which paper is torn to shreds by a pair of hands."

Xia may be detailed, but he doesn't have much of an opinion about the title

of his exhibition.

"I always visit other exhibitions held in 798, but I can't remember the title of certain shows, even though I was just there," he said.

"Frankly speaking, I want to cross out the second word of the title. What I really want to forget is the current moment, instead of past memories. We have to move on without being trapped by what's happened before, no matter how good or bad it was."

"We have to face the future."

Ideals

In the burgeoning yet chaotic contemporary Chinese art world, there are always prizes, parties and people who strive for fortune and fame. But Xia avoids that crowd, and shies away from popularity.

"While people are all sprinting for the line, I would rather move backward," he said.

Xia concentrates on his tempera paintings. He has not considered using other materials.

There are two kinds of painters, he said. "The first kind is the one who merely produces pleasing pictures." These people focus on the composition of a picture, the colors and shadowing.

"The second kind," he said, "is the artist who can paint whatever he wants. Moreover, he has formed his own artistic language so that viewers can recognize his works from other people's."

This is the ultimate goal, Xia said. He considers Japanese artist Murakami Takashi or British artist Damien Hirst as having reached that standard, producing highly distinguishable works.

Teng Kun, an art critic, said that Xia Yu never gives up his experiments on distinguished painting techniques.

"He also has some breakthroughs," Teng said. "He has utilized his particular artistic language to construct a self-reflexively satisfying world of paintings."

Xia's works are different from other people's as a result of his materials and techniques. "You can say that his paintings are strange, unfamiliar, yet these peculiarities are not negative narrations; instead, they can be magnificent," Teng said. "Xia Yu is a pure painter who produces pure paintings."

The exhibition will remain on display through June 5.



Portrait of a Man No. 4, wood tempera, 100x80cm, 2012



Hand No. 14, wood tempera, 90x130cm, 2013



Hand No. 14, wood tempera, 90x130cm, 2012

Photos provided by Celine Lin

Unique designs at Wuhao, and quality honey, coffee from Yunnan

By Annie Wei

The summer months call for walking the hutong and finding gems of stores.

This week, *Beijing Today* reviewed what's new at a curated designer store in a hutong. We also recommend products from Shangrila Farm, an organic and sustainable farm from Yunnan Province.

Wuhao Curated Shop

Located in a beautiful garden that used to be home to an emperor's wife, Wuhao Curated Shop offers visitors a great shopping experience.

Visitors need to make an appointment in advance. Staffers are then able to give each person a detailed introduction to every design piece.

The shop's director, Isabelle Pascal, curates its seasonal collections according to the Chinese theory of five elements: fire, metal, water, wood and earth.

This year's seasonal element is wood.

For the next two weeks, Wuhao Curated Shop will host three collaborative events with special site installations.

Interested buyers can find well-crafted, limited-edition sunglasses from brand Smith & Norbu, made from yak horn. These sunglasses are specially made for men, though women who enjoy a more rugged cowboy style may find them interesting as well.

From June 7 to 10, Wuhao will be showing off its MAD installation, with 25 architectural pieces, including one from Ma Yansong, who designed an interesting piece at Beibingmasi Hutong near Penghao Theater: a staircase from a hutong terrace welded with a washing room.

On June 15, as part of the shop's third anniversary party, young textile designer Elaine Ng Yanling's work will be on display, showing her climatology series with magical branches, wooden Velcro and resined wooden skin.

Visitors can find a new selection of talent and labels as well, including Yifang Wang, Paperself, Myak, Silent Voice, Chorus and Say My Name.

Wuhao Curated Shop

Where: 35 Mao'er Hutong, Dongcheng District
Open: RSVP
Tel: 18911355035



Elaine Ng Yanling's climatology series



Smith & Norbu's sunglasses

Photos provided by Wuhao



Elaine Ng Yanling's climatology series



Ma Yansong's "bubble" near Penghao Theater



Honey from Shangrila Farm Photo by An Jianda

CFP Photos

Natural produce from Yunnan

Shangrila Farm's coffee and honey have been available in the city's imported food supermarket Jenny Lou's and April Gourmet for more than three years.

Founded by the Malik Family in Yunnan Province, Shangrila Farm aims to operate as a sustainable business. Not only does it offer quality coffee roasts at high altitudes free of pollution, as well as honey and skincare made of fresh ingredients with no additives or preservatives, the farm wants to create long-term benefits for local farmers.

Yesterday, the farm hosted a tasting event at a small wine bar and announced its new development plan: by introducing investment partners to improve farmer training, irrigation and agriculture techniques.

The farm also plans to open its first urban cafe lifestyle store in town soon.

Website: shangrilafarm.com



Michelin-starred Chinese food and champagne

By Annie Wei

More famous restaurants are expanding their business in Beijing. This week we scouted Sun Tung Lok, a three-Michelin-starred Cantonese restaurant with an outlet in central Beijing.

Also, the champagne association Comite Champagne from France held an important event on Monday, announcing champagne's arrival.

Beijing Today tried some quality champagnes that are now available.



Sliced grouper with XO sauce
Photos by An Jianda



Braised prime rib with house gravy



Champagne region

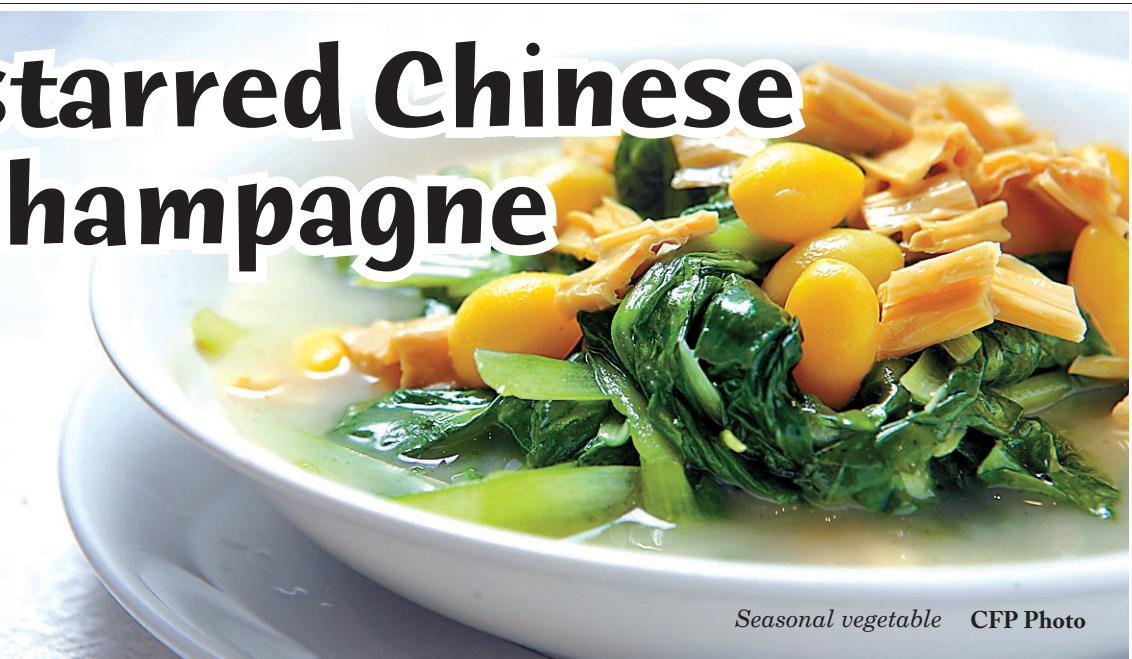
Comite Champagne announced on Monday that China has become the fastest growing market for Champagne, and is the fifth largest market outside the European Union.

Last year, shipments to China exceeded 2 million bottles, with an increase of 52 percent over 2011.

However, many in China still aren't aware of the difference between champagne and sparkling wines.

Chinese authorities have decided to register Champagne as a "geographical indication," ensuring that sparkling wines can't call themselves champagne on their labels anymore.

Here are a few recommended champagnes that are available in China.



Seasonal vegetable CFP Photo

Sun Tung Lok – fine Cantonese dining

In 1969, the Yuen family founded this restaurant and brand with a focus on quality. In 2011, it was awarded three Michelin stars for its dedication.

It has since lost a star, but not its commitment to excellence. Last year it opened an outlet near Wangfujing Avenue. The restaurant has a nice courtyard with modern and traditional architecture and decoration. The 13th son of the Kangxi Emperor during the Qing Dynasty lived here.

Many diners are intimidated by the decorations when they walk in, perhaps realizing that their meal will be expensive.

But as long as one avoids the rare ingredients such as abalone, a great meal can be had for less than 500 yuan.

One of the recommended dishes is roast suckling pig stuffed with minced shrimp. The pig was very

crispy, yet the two shrimps are tender and fresh, creating two different textures. We also liked its braised prime rib with house gravy. The ribs are very tender, and the meat falls off the bones.

The setting is perfect for business dining. The set menu starts from 680 yuan per person, and includes seven dishes and a fresh fruit platter. It has six small starters, double-boiled fish maw with vegetable, aromatic tiger prawn, braised bean curd with Shiitake mushroom and vegetable, sautéed spotted grouper with spicy flavor, wok-fried white cabbage and sweetened cashew nut crème.

Sun Tung Lok-Beijing

Where: 12 Jinyu Hutong, Dongcheng District
Open: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm; 5-10:30 pm
Tel: 6559 9899

Bubbles for summer parties

Champagne Bonnaire Tradition

It's a good aperitif in the classic style. It's well-balanced with a charming and fruity nose, and subtle spicy notes in the mouth.

Importer: pin-shang-xb.com

Champagne Charles de Cazanove Traditional Brut

It has fine bubbles, with a fruity nose, delicious, persistent barley sugar and brioche flavors.

Importer: Mercuris Fines Wines

Beutz Brut Classic

It has an intense golden appearance, with floral notes followed by aromas of toast, marzipan and ripe fruit. It's fresh, full-bodied, elegant and structured.

Importer: CWS

Champagne Devaux La Cuvee

The wine is gold yellow, a bit amberish. It has delicate and persistent mousse, notes of candied orange peel, butter and spicy. It tastes fresh and

creamy, with a long finish.

Importer: The Wine Republic
Lanson Champagne Rose

The wine has aromas of roses and fruit, with discreet notes of red fruit. It tastes fresh and well-rounded, has balance and good length on the finish.

Importer: FWP
Taittinger Nocturne Brut

The wine has a pale yellow color with shimmering highlights. It has a white blossom and ripe fruit aroma. It tastes soft and mellow, and remains fresh in the mouth. The aftertaste is long and soft with an enjoyable and flavorful sweetness.

Importer: Shanghai Torres Wine Trading Co.

Perrier-Jouet Cuvee Belle Epoque

It's a beautiful pale, clear gold color. On the nose it has lightly scented white flowers. It tastes fresh, light and silky, with a mineral core in its structure, and a subtle and lingering finish.

Importer: Pernod Ricard China



CFP Photos